

MEADOWWORD

MEADOWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

www.meadowoodneighbors.org

JUNE 2008

July 4th Parade and Picnic !!!



Don't miss this year's Fourth of July neighborhood activities on Friday, July 4th! Come on out and enjoy the fun with your family and neighbors at the children's parade in the morning and at the picnic in the afternoon.

This year's theme is "Golden Anniversary", in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Meadowood Neighborhood Association! It's a big deal to be around for this long and we have a lot to celebrate – come and join us!

... CHILDREN'S PARADE, WITH FIRE TRUCK

– 10:00 A.M. AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Kids should use the "Golden Anniversary" theme in making costumes for themselves and decorations for their "wheels" (no pets this year). There will be prizes for the best-decorated bikes and wagons and children in the parade in the following categories: individuals 0-5, 6-8, and 9-12 years old, and groups of 2 or more children. There will be treats for all parade participants.

*Assemble for the parade at Good Shepherd Church
(at the corner of Whitney Way and Raymond Road):*

10:00 a.m. Assembly

10:15 a.m. Judging

10:30 a.m. Parade begins

... NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC

– 12:30 P.M. AT ELVER PARK

The picnic will be held at the new Elver Park shelter and food will be served from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. **The picnic is free to MNA members but you must bring your membership card for check-in.** Guests accompanied by MNA members are welcome for just \$1 per person.

... ALSO AT THE PICNIC, MEMBERS WILL VOTE FOR 2008-09 MNA OFFICERS AND REPS

The nominees listed on this page will appear on the ballot at the picnic (the April *Meadowood* contained a call for nominations). Note: the ballot will have a write-in option for each position.

* See candidate list →

MNA at the Mallards Game on July 17th Call Now and Reserve Some Fun!

MNA members can enjoy Reserved Box Seats for the Mallards game at Warner Park on Thursday, July 17th, at 7:05 p.m. but only if you act now to take advantage of it. Special-price MNA tickets for the game are \$5 for adults, and \$4 for seniors and for children 6-12. Children younger than 6 are FREE but they don't get a seat – they must sit on someone's lap.

But, so far, only three families have signed up – too few for this outing. You must call Lorene at 271-5054 to reserve your tickets if you want to attend. **Call now while you're thinking about it – the deadline for reservations is Sunday, June 29th.** Tickets will be available for pickup at the July 4th picnic (if enough people have signed up to attend the game) or can be delivered to your house.

* 2008-09 MNA Candidates

Officers

President	Lisa Veldran
Vice President	Lorene Wendricks
Secretary	open
Treasurer	Bob Rabehl

Area Reps

1. Jane Ross
2. Cheri McKently
3. Bob Rabehl
4. Dorothy Loehrer
5. Sheri Rembert
6. Lisa Veldran
7. Lisa Schulz
8. Mark & Janice Bauman
9. Dave Glomp
10. open
11. open
12. Lorene Wendricks
13. open
14. open
15. Tim Johnson

Note: Request absentee ballots for this election from Larry Luther, 1702 Golden Oak Lane. To be counted, absentee ballots must be returned to and **received** by Larry by July 2.

**From Our Alderperson
From Our Alder**



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After our record-breaking winter, it's great to enjoy Madison's beautiful spring before we quickly move into summer. I am happy to report street crews are working hard to fix the numerous potholes around town created by last winter's weather. With weather cooperating, spraying for Gypsy Moths was successfully carried out. Now we need to be vigilant about the Emerald Ash Borers that are heading our direction!

In late May, I met with Chief Noble Wray and later with West Police District Captain Jay Lengfeld to be updated on MPD plans and preparedness for this summer. I requested Chief Wray to provide a report specifically written for District 20 for me to share with my constituents. Here is Chief Wray's message:

"District 20 highlights:

On June 18, 2008, 12 of the 30 officers that were approved in the 2008 budget will graduate and be ready for assignment throughout the City of Madison. The good news is, one of the officers that was targeted for District 20 we were able get started early and he is already having an impact. In April the West Community Policing Team (CPT) received another officer (Officer John Amos) who will spend half of his time in the Russett/Balsam area. He has been working with Toki Middle School, landlords in the area, Meadowood Mall and providing foot patrol in the area. Officer Amos and the West intern will be working on a project this summer that will help find programming for children who live in the area. Other District highlights: Officer Mike Hanson, the neighborhood officer for Theresa/Betty's Lane, has organized neighbor walks, has worked with Falk School to open up the school for neighborhood programming, and provides foot patrol in this area. West District Patrol officers, CPT officers, and TEST officers had two traffic initiatives last month on S. Whitney Way that netted 35 speeding tickets and 25 no-left-turn violation tickets in an effort to make this a safer area. There has been an individual that has exposed himself on six different occasions over the last 18 months to bike riders on the bike path that runs next to the

south side of Odana Golf Course. The West District Crime Pattern Response Team, which consists of a representative from patrol, detectives, CPT, and led by the West Field Lieutenant, developed a plan that included surveillances, undercover work, and increased directed patrols. A suspect has been developed, and a case of window peeping has been developed against this individual. The investigation continues."

For a second year, Midwest Family Broadcasting will sponsor July 4th fireworks at Elver Park. Let's celebrate the holiday with friends and neighbors by participating in our district's many gatherings, picnics, and parades before the fireworks. I have asked the sponsor to allow area associations to set up tables at this event for information, recruiting and fundraising. This is a great opportunity for us to promote area associations, to fundraise, and to recruit volunteers for Neighborhood Watches. Interested area associations and groups: please contact me as soon as possible to ensure your place.

Although the grant proposal for Neighborhood Watches in District 20 was rejected for the second time, I truly appreciate the residents who dedicated so much time and hard work to the effort. I was quite disappointed to learn that it will be at least 2010 before any money is available for expanding and enhancing the Meadowridge Library Branch. I have secured the space recently vacated by Jacobson Bros. and supported the plan to pilot a multi-purpose neighborhood center in that space for area residents to use for community activities. Madison School Community Recreation (MSCR) will operate the center and offer some satellite services such as health and fitness exercises, hobbies, art and craft classes, and some after-school youth activities supervised and mentored by RSVP or adult volunteers. The purpose is to strengthen our community by connecting people within our neighborhoods. If all goes well, I hope operation will start in July. I am soliciting your ideas on how to put this space to the best use for our community. Library clubs/extra activities, area bridge clubs, quilting circles, Boy or Girl Scout troops, neighborhood associations and watches... are encouraged to sign up for group meetings here.

Looking forward to next fall and the 2008-09 school year, I plan to work with both Toki Middle and Orchard Ridge Elementary School principals to alleviate nuisances caused by their students' behaviors after school. West PD has also accepted my request for them to work with the schools on improving students' respect for area persons and property.

A Reminder: District 20 has a date to revisit with West District Police staff at their McKenna Boulevard station at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 7. All concerned residents in District 20 are welcome to attend as we review progress and share concerns over public safety issues. I encourage ALL of you to work with the MPD and report all suspicious or criminal activities in your neighborhood.

Please keep in touch!

Thuy Pham-Remmele, District 20 Alder
email: district20@cityofmadison.com

From Our County Supervisor



Greetings neighbors,

As we finally get to enjoy some warm weather there are some serious and important issues in Dane County.

911 Call Center

As we all know, the Dane County 911 Center has been under tremendous scrutiny recently due to the mishandling of the Brittany Zimmerman 911 call. It is of vital importance to all of us that we can depend on the 911 call center and that none of us should hesitate to call 911 in an emergency. Like everyone, I care deeply that complete confidence be restored in the department. I have attended every meeting that has discussed the issues concerning the 911 center and I believe that some of the short-term and long-term solutions that are being implemented and discussed will make the center better. The county board has just authorized the hiring of two new call-center personnel. They will be fast-tracked and put on duty as soon as practicable.

In 2004 the county had a 911-call-center audit and reviewed the entire operation. There were several recommendations from the audit and a majority of them have been implemented. In addition we recently heard from the head of the Waukesha County 911 center and about its current practices and procedures in comparison to Dane County. While I always believe there is room for improvement, I feel confident that Dane County is doing as good a job, if not better, than Waukesha County.

Some of the biggest concerns and frustrations I hear from citizens are with the technological ability for 911 cellular phone calls to indicate their precise locations but there does not appear to be a clear technological answer to this problem at the present time. Also, technology never stands still and a system implemented one day may need to be upgraded and improved by the time it is functional. Please take a moment to visit the Public Safety Communications page on the Dane County website regarding some of the cell phone issues.

On June 4th the County Executive announced that the 911 center has begun requesting bids for a \$34 million technical upgrade to the entire system. This has been in the planning stage for some time and is the first step towards better interoperability among all first responders throughout the county. This will be paid for over three years. There are two more phases to the upgrade. The next part will be to purchase radios for all responders, the cost for which is estimated at \$20 million. The final portion will be investment in maintenance for the entire system.

The county board will also discuss requesting a new audit of the 911 center. I will recommend adding at least one citizen to the 911 call-center commission. I believe this would be an important addition to the committee, which is currently made up of a county supervisor, alders from Madison and a city outside of Madison, a town representative and emergency professionals. It is important to hear from citizens on a regular basis.

Take a Stake in the Lakes

One of the most important assets we have is our lakes! The annual "Take a Stake in the Lakes" campaign is underway through the end of June. Keeping the lakes as clean as possible is a responsibility of all of us who enjoy them. **One of the ways we can help this effort here on the Southwest side is to keep leaves and debris out of the street gutters, which feed directly into the storm sewers, which in turn wind up in the lakes.** Check out all of the events that are going on throughout the rest of the month by visiting <http://www.takeastakeinthelakes.com>

E-Supervisor News

Feel free to sign up for my E-Supervisor News by sending an email to mveldran@charter.net requesting to be added to my listserv. I will periodically send out updates to this group.

- Matt Veldran

District 7 – Dane County Board

<http://www.countyofdane.com/coboard/supervisorDetail.aspx?district=7>

Meadowood Community Garden Update

You may have read about the growing popularity of community gardens, and Meadowood's garden is no different. All of our plots have now been rented, though we may be able to come up with a half plot if someone is interested. Contact Sheri at 273-0960 or email horseycraft@hotmail.com for more information.

The Kids' Garden group meets every Wednesday night at 5:30 and is very popular. They are growing a variety of flowers and vegetables, and plans are being made for a

strawberry bed. The cool spring weather got everything off to a slow start but things are starting to pop now! We have started planting our front flower border and we hope to have our permanent water line installed soon. We're in Meadowood Park near Leland and Thrush. If you are out for an early evening walk, take a stroll by the garden and see all the progress. Friendly visitors are welcome.

Summer Events at Meadowridge Library Catch the Reading Bug!

Yes, you and your whole family can catch the reading bug and you should go for it! **Summer Library Program Registration** starts June 2. You can register at the library, or online at www.madisonpubliclibrary.org, and keep the kids reading throughout the summer. For every five books read, or five hours spent reading (or being read to), your child will get a prize.

All Madison Public Library locations sponsor a variety of performers, crafts and other programs throughout the summer months. You can find the complete schedule at www.madisonpubliclibrary.org, or stop by the library and pick up a copy of the summer *Kidspage*. Meadowridge will feature **storytelling with Sadarri and Company** on Thursday, July 10, at 10:30 a.m. All ages are welcome, and registration begins June 26.

Join us on Wednesday, July 30, at 2 p.m. for **Duck Tape Mania!** We'll provide snacks, colored Duck Tape and loads of fun! Bring your friends and make wearable art - purses, wallets, key-chains, bracelets, belts and more. Patterns will be available to get you started. Call 288-6160 to register beginning July 16.

Don't miss the **Friends of the Meadowridge Branch Library Book and Bake Sale** on Saturday, June 21. All proceeds stay at Meadowridge. Preview sale, for Friends Members only, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. - and you can become a member at the door for \$5.00! Bag sale from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Come early for the best selections!

Bob Keith is a jack-of-all-trades who traveled to Iraq to discover what the mainstream media isn't telling us. Join us on Tuesday, June 17, at 6:30 p.m. for **Culture in the War Zone** as Bob shares his experiences and photos. Registration begins on June 3. Call 288-6160, or register online at www.madisonpubliclibrary.org

Ongoing Library Events:

1. **Adult Book Group** meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Copies of next month's book are always available at the reference desk. For July, we're reading Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City*. August's book is *Welcome to the Great Mysterious* by Lorna Landvik. New members are always welcome!

2. Meadowridge offers **Book Baby and Toddler Time** story times for children 0-3 with their grownups. These are designed specifically for the youngest children, and are a great opportunity to meet other families with young children. Start instilling a love of books early. Registration is required - call the library at 288-6160 to inquire about the current schedule, or check www.madisonpubliclibrary.org under Programs.

3. **Preschool Story Time** happens Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and features stories, songs, fingerplays and more for children 3-5. No registration is required, and younger siblings are welcome.

For a Summer of Fun, Family and Fitness ... Consider Ridgewood Pool

There are lots of reasons to consider Ridgewood Pool this summer - it's a great community asset and close nearby.

Special summer rates for 2008, including Summer Trial Membership at \$495 for the whole family! Three pools, a separate toddler pool, one high and two low diving boards, a concession stand, a picnic area, social activities, including weekly teen nights and Sunday brunches for adults. Swimming, diving, and water ballet lessons and teams. Adult lap-swim times.

For more information, call the Membership Line at 271-4614 or visit www.ridgewoodpool.com



Wanted! New Editor For This Newsletter !!!
All you need is some enthusiasm and curiosity and a little experience with Word or Publisher or another text editor that would work for a newsletter. This is a volunteer position, for five editions a year. You get to work with great people on the Meadowood Neighborhood Association Board, you get all the neighborhood news early, you get legendary journalistic status - and it's all free. Contact Lisa at 271-0722 - today!